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SUBJECT: MFA PROPOSAL ON COUNTER-NARCOTICS EFFORTS IN
AFGHANISTAN

1. (SBU) MFA North America Department Director Igor Neverov recently delivered to the DCM a nonpaper suggesting ways the U.S. and Russia, within the context of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), can cooperate more closely in the fight against narco-trafficking in Afghanistan. A copy of the original nonpaper in Russian has been faxed to EUR/RUS.

2. (SBU) Begin text of nonpaper:

Russia and the United States both understand that effective measures against the production and smuggling of drugs in Afghanistan have taken on a more critical importance in achieving larger goals such as defeating terrorism, establishing a stable authority in the country, and managing it economically. We are pleased that our partners recognize increasingly the need to establish productive cooperation with Russia in this area.

An excellent example is the launch of a pilot project within the framework of the NATO-Russia Council on training Afghan and Central Asian police officers to fight drug producers and smugglers. That course is taught at the Ministry of Internal Affairs' training center in Domodedovo.

An important element in countering the Afghan narco-threat is strengthening regional cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbors, the urgency of which was stressed in the recently adopted London agreement on Afghanistan. This cooperation could be implemented bilaterally as well as with the involvement of influential regional organizations, in particular, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). All CSTO member-states have expressed their willingness to provide multilateral assistance and support to Afghanistan including in such areas as fighting international terrorism, transborder drug-trafficking, organized crime and illegal immigration, the strengthening of mutual borders, assistance for the development of regional trade and economic cooperation, humanitarian and other exchanges. For these purposes within the CSTO framework a special working group on Afghanistan has been established. A special significance in the context of international efforts to counter the production and spread of Afghan drugs is being created in the partnership between the international organizations and multilateral structures involved in this area, on the one hand, and CSTO, which is already actively involved in this work. As an example, the counter-narcotics operation, Channel, which has been implemented by the CSTO, is becoming increasingly efficient and every year a larger number of nations join this operation. We don't see any obstacles if NATO members including the U.S. would like to join it (initially, possibly, as observers).

We are convinced that the establishment of cooperation on Afghanistan between CSTO on the one hand and NATO and the international security forces on the other hand could help to transform Afghanistan's northern borders into a secure fence

protected from terrorism, drug trafficking, and organized crime, while at the same time providing "transparency" for legal trade and all the forms of regional cooperation. We are ready to discuss possible specific directions and forms of that cooperation.

End text of nonpaper.

RUSSELL